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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0212  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8601  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 8710  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1770  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1811

C O N F I D E N T I A L AIT TAIPEI 000948

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HHS FOR MARK ABDON, GENEVA FOR DHOHMAN; BEIJING FOR  
DSELIGSOHN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/27/2012

TAGS: [WHO](#) [TBIO](#) [PREL](#) [CH](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN  
WHO

REF: A. TAIPEI 00805  
[B](#). TAIPEI 00783  
[C](#). TAIPEI 00768

Classified By: Acting Economic Section Chief Tim Neely for reasons 1.4  
b/d

[1](#). (C) SUMMARY. Canada convened a meeting April 11 of  
representatives from UK, Canada, EU, Australia, New Zealand,  
Japan and U.S. offices in Taipei to discuss next steps  
following Taiwan's abortive membership bid for the World  
Health Organization (WHO). All agreed that that Taiwan's  
membership drive was not helpful and may actually undercut  
efforts underway to enhance Taiwan's "meaningful  
participation" in WHO activities. Although there was some  
disagreement over support for Taiwan's observership bid at  
the World Health Assembly (WHA), all present agreed that

their governments were committed to continuing to work for  
Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO activities. To this  
end, this ad hoc group agreed to continue information sharing  
and coordination in support of Taiwan's participation in WHO  
activities, but in a low-key fashion so as not to disturb PRC  
sensitivities. END SUMMARY

NO TO MEMBERSHIP; YES TO MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION  
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[2](#). (C) At the invitation of the Canadian Commercial Office  
director, reps from the EU, UK, Canada, Australia, New  
Zealand, Japan and the AIT met on 4/19 to discuss  
ramifications of Taiwan's April 11 membership application for  
WHO membership. Following are views of each country  
representative present:

--Canada: The Prime Minister is interested in the issue of  
Taiwan participation in WHO and is looking at other options  
since Canada does not believe the 2005 WHO-PRC MOU adequately  
addresses Taiwan's needs for increased meaningful  
participation.

-- EU: Brussels was upset and surprised that Taiwan applied  
for WHO membership, lamenting that Taiwan had not  
acknowledged EU efforts on its behalf. The EU rep, however,  
stated there is no change in the EU position, and that the EU  
continues to oppose WHA observership for Taiwan but supports

increasing Taiwan's meaningful participation (including International Health Regulations/IHR and the Global Outbreak Alert Response Network/GOARN) and has so demarched WHO twice this year, most recently in a March meeting of EU ambassadors with WHO Director-General Margaret Chan.

-- UK: UK finds it difficult to assess the actual status of Taiwan's participation in WHO activities, but supports Taiwan's meaningful participation.

-- New Zealand: Opposes WHO observership, but supports meaningful participation. NZ is not happy with Taiwan's membership bid and asked what course of action the U.S. plans.

-- Japan: Taiwan's WHO membership bid came as a surprise to Japan. On April 9 FM Huang called in Japan Representative Ikeda and informed him of Taiwan's intention to apply for WHO membership (Note: Huang called in AIT Deputy Director on April 6; see ref C). Four days later Japan responded to FM Huang with four points: (1) Japan is making every effort to increase Taiwan participation. (2) Japan is concerned that Taiwan's membership application will undermine efforts for improving meaningful participation. (3) Taiwan should reconsider its decision to apply for membership. (4) Japan does not support membership in WHO for Taiwan, but it does support observership and meaningful participation in IHR and GOARN.

--AIT: AIT works with both MOFA and Taiwan Center for Disease Control (TCDC) on the issue of enhancing Taiwan's meaningful Participation in WHO activities. The U.S. supports observership and meaningful participation, but not membership, for Taiwan. Our representative in Geneva has discussed these issues with WHO and Taipei's representative

in Geneva. (Note: At the Japan rep's request, AIT did not mention the planned April 24 U.S.-Japan meeting with WHO Director-General Chan. End Note.) The U.S. also has found it difficult ascertaining the precise level of Taiwan's participation in WHO technical meetings. AIT intends to work closely with TCDC to clarify this issue. AIT and other reps agreed that posting a schedule of meetings on the WHO website would be helpful.

#### Future Coordination -----

14. (C) The meeting concluded with participants agreeing to coordinate locally in Taipei in support of enhancing Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO activities. All agreed that more transparency on the process of choosing which WHO meetings Taiwan could attend was needed. The participants agreed to continue information sharing and coordination, but in low-key fashion so as not to arouse PRC suspicions that participating countries were trying to "gang-up" on China. Future meetings and information exchange will be scheduled.

YOUNG